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January 13, 1982

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable
William H. Webster, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attn: Laboratory Documents Section
FBI Headquarters
9th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535

FROM: Rufus D. Putney, Chief
Special Assignments Staff
Office of Security

SUBJECT: SULLIVAN, John

John SULLIVAN is an American reporter who disappeared in San Salvador on December 28, 1980. An Office within the State Department, CA/OCS/EMR (Overseas Citizens Emergency Operations Center) has spent a great deal of time trying to get a definitive answer for SULLIVAN's family concerning his ultimate fate. CA/OCS/EMR recently obtained two letters from an individual(s) who they think may be one in the same. They noted certain similarities such as the word "era" is misspelled "hera" in both letters and several words beginning with the letter "p" are capitalized in the middle of several sentences in both letters.

Based on the above information, we request that your Bureau conduct a handwriting analysis of the attached letters, which are written in Spanish. The English translations are also attached. Unfortunately, we do not have the original documents. According to CA/OCS/EMR, the original of the first letter is located with the Sullivan family and the original of the second is still in the custody of our Embassy in San Salvador. If the originals are required before youccan begin the analysis, please advise and we will coordinate efforts to obtain them. If we can be of any additional assistance, please contact our Staff at 202-632-3182. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Attachment:
1. September 25, 1981 letter and translation
2. December 9, 1981 letter and translation

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GDS 10/20/87 (DERIVATIVE - GIESE, Arthur M.)
A/SY/SAS/SI:JCMurphy:pia